

C23 On page 25, line 13, replace "Sephacryl" with ~~SEPHACRYL~~[°] (agarose with acrylamide links)---
INST D 19

C24 On page 25, line 27, replace "CM-Trisacryl" with ~~CM-TRISACRYL~~[°] (agarose with acrylamide links)---
INST D 19

C25 On page 25, line 29, replace "Trisacryl-M" with ~~TRISACRYL-M~~[°] (agarose with acrylamide links)---
INST D 20

C26 On page 29, third row of table, replace "CM-Trisacryl" with ~~CM-TRISACRYL~~[°] (agarose with acrylamide links)---
INST D 21

C27 On page 30, line 15, replace "Sephacryl" with ~~SEPHACRYL~~[°] (agarose with acrylamide links)---
INST D 22

C28 On page 30, line 16, replace "CM-Trisacryl" with ~~CM-TRISACRYL~~[°] (agarose with acrylamide links)---
Inst D 23

C29 On page 30, line 18, replace "CM-Trisacryl" with ~~CM-TRISACRYL~~[°] (agarose with acrylamide links)---
Inst D 24

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 12-22 and 25-32.

Please add the following new claims:

C30 42. An isolated peptide or protein having lectinic properties and comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

43. An isolated peptide or protein having lectinic properties and comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

44. An isolated peptide or protein having lectinic properties and comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

45. An isolated peptide or protein having lectinic properties and comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

46. An isolated peptide or protein having lectinic properties and comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.

47. An isolated peptide or protein, wherein the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 comprises the amino acid sequence of the peptide or protein, wherein the peptide or protein has lectinic properties, and wherein the peptide or protein is recognized by an antibody specific to the peptide or protein of claim 42.

48. An isolated peptide or protein, wherein the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 comprises the amino acid sequence of the peptide or protein, wherein the peptide or protein has lectinic properties, and wherein the peptide or protein is recognized by an antibody specific to the peptide or protein of claim 43.

49. An isolated peptide or protein, wherein the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 comprises the amino acid sequence of the peptide or protein, wherein the peptide or protein has lectinic properties, and wherein the peptide or protein is recognized by an antibody specific to the peptide or protein of claim 44.

50. An isolated peptide or protein, wherein the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 comprises the amino acid sequence of the peptide or protein, wherein the peptide or protein has lectinic properties, and wherein the peptide or protein is recognized by an antibody specific to the peptide or protein of claim 45.

51. An isolated peptide or protein, wherein the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 comprises the amino acid sequence of the peptide or protein, wherein the peptide or protein has lectinic properties, and wherein the peptide or protein is recognized by an antibody specific to the peptide or protein of claim 46.

inst 525 52. The peptide or protein of claim 42 obtained by a method comprising sequentially treating a tissue extract containing a lectin:

- (a) with pepsin or at an acidic pH to remove a majority of contaminating proteins while retaining lectinic activity,
- (b) by chromatography using SEPHACRYL S-200® (agarose with acrylamide links),
- (c) by chromatography using DEAE cellulose,
- (d) by chromatography using CM-TRISACRYL-M® (agarose with acrylamide links),
- (e) by affinity chromatography using N-acetylneuraminic acid as a ligand, and
- (f) by reversed-phase HPLC to separate the peptide or protein.

C 7 b 53. The peptide or protein of claim 52, wherein 55 kd and 14 kd bands are recovered if the peptide or protein is subjected to SDS-PAGE.

54. A method for obtaining the peptide or protein of claim 42 comprising sequentially treating a tissue extract containing a lectin:

- (a) with pepsin or at an acidic pH to remove a majority of contaminating proteins while retaining lectinic activity,
 - (b) by chromatography using SEPHACRYL S-200® (agarose with acrylamide links),
 - (c) by chromatography using DEAE cellulose,
 - (d) by chromatography using CM-TRISACRYL-M® (agarose with acrylamide links),
- and
- (e) by affinity chromatography using N-acetylneuraminic acid as a ligand.

55. The method of claim 54, wherein (d) is conducted:

- (i) using a first buffer to remove the majority of contaminating albumin, and
- (ii) using a second buffer to elute the lectin.

56. The method of claim 54, wherein the ligand is attached to an agarose gel column, and (e) is conducted:

- (i) using a first buffer to elute the lectin, and
- (ii) using a second buffer to remove the majority of contaminating proteins.

inst 525 57. The method of claim 54, comprising, after (e), treating the extract by HPLC.

58. The method of claim 57, wherein the HPLC is conducted using water/acetonitrile/trifluoroacetic acid.

59. The method of claim 58, wherein 65 kd, 55 kd, and 14 kd bands are recovered if a fraction corresponding to the main peak obtained during the HPLC is subjected to SDS-PAGE.

60. A growth factor useful for contributing to regeneration of damaged tissues and to improving the wound healing process, comprising the peptide of claim 42.

61. A growth factor useful for contributing to regeneration of damaged tissues and to improving the wound healing process, comprising the peptide of claim 43.

62. A growth factor useful for contributing to regeneration of damaged tissues and to improving the wound healing process, comprising the peptide of claim 44.

63. A growth factor useful for contributing to regeneration of damaged tissues and to improving the wound healing process, comprising the peptide of claim 45.

64. A growth factor useful for contributing to regeneration of damaged tissues and to improving the wound healing process, comprising the peptide of claim 46.

65. A growth factor useful for contributing to regeneration of damaged tissues and to improving the wound healing process, comprising the peptide of claim 47.

66. A growth factor useful for contributing to regeneration of damaged tissues and to improving the wound healing process, comprising the peptide of claim 48.

67. A growth factor useful for contributing to regeneration of damaged tissues and to improving the wound healing process, comprising the peptide of claim 49.

68. A growth factor useful for contributing to regeneration of damaged tissues and to improving the wound healing process, comprising the peptide of claim 50.

69. A growth factor useful for contributing to regeneration of damaged tissues and to improving the wound healing process, comprising the peptide of claim 51.

70. A therapeutic agent for stimulating the immune system comprising the peptide of claim 42.

71. The therapeutic agent of claim 70, further comprising interleukin-2.

72. A therapeutic agent for stimulating the immune system comprising the peptide of claim 43.

73. The therapeutic agent of claim 72, further comprising interleukin-2.

74. A therapeutic agent for stimulating the immune system comprising the peptide of claim 44.

75. The therapeutic agent of claim 74, further comprising interleukin-2.

76. A therapeutic agent for stimulating the immune system comprising the peptide of claim 45.

77. The therapeutic agent of claim 76, further comprising interleukin-2.

78. A therapeutic agent for stimulating the immune system comprising the peptide of claim 46.

79. The therapeutic agent of claim 78, further comprising interleukin-2.

80. A therapeutic agent for stimulating the immune system comprising the peptide of claim 47.

81. The therapeutic agent of claim 80, further comprising interleukin-2.